

February 20, 2017

Appropriations Committee

300 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT

RE: Inter-district Magnet School Funding: ACES Educational Center for the Arts

Dear Senator Catherine Osten, Senator Paul Formica, and Representative Toni Walker:

My name is Deborah Olchek and I am a parent of a student who attends ACES Educational Center of the Arts (ECA) who resides in your district.

This is my daughters first year in the Creative Writing Department at ECA. In her short tenure at ECA, the highly diverse learning environment that emphasizes individual creativity in all of their students, has taught her critical self-assessment; the ability to accept and provide constructive tactful feedback; empathy; problem solving; and an unbelievably solid educational work ethic. She is an Honors student; having to maintain a rigorous schedule, attending her home school in the morning and ECA in the afternoon- almost a 12 hour day in all, before even starting her studying and homework. She is not the same student that I sent off to her freshman year back in August of 2016. She has grown in ways I could not even have hoped for. She is a self-motivated, independent thinker, believing and advocating for diversity and humanitarian causes. She has become enlightened, displaying a fervent interest in everything from world politics to continuously striving to develop herself as an individual through her creative process and the many other diverse elective opportunities ECA offers. The staff, students and innovative milieu at ECA are directly responsible for this evolution.

Her teachers, professional, practicing artists and arts educators from all areas of expertise in the fields of art and education, are vitally important to this process. ECA is unique as an inter-district magnet arts high school, representing students on a regional scale unmatched by any other school in the State of Connecticut, receiving more national, state, and regional arts awards and honorable recognitions than any other school in the State of Connecticut.

Please vote to support magnet school funding in Connecticut. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Deborah Olchek

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